

**Subject:** Floodplain Acquisition

**Background:** Encroachment by agricultural and urban development has restricted floodplains which can lead to reduced riparian habitat and loss of shaded riverine aquatic habitat. In some cases, the landowners in the flood plain also face repeated flooding of their land with the resulting loss of agricultural revenue and loss of property. Opportunities now exist on many rivers which were heavily flooded in January 1997 to expand floodways and riparian corridors, thus providing greater flood management flexibility and concurrently benefitting the ecosystem. Many of these timely opportunities have been identified by the USDA/NRCS during their response to the January 1997 floods.

**Proposed Action:** Use the Integration Panel's 1997 priorities to identify and acquire (through fee title or permanent easement) lands within the floodplains of the major rivers or their tributaries. A particular emphasis will be placed on the lands flooded in January 1997.

**Geographic Area:** Throughout the entire Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system, including tributaries.

**Recommended Funding:** \$12,000,000

**Coordination:** Work with local landowners through USDA/NRCS state and regional staff to identify and provide matching funds for Wetlands Reserve Program projects submitted for review after the January 1997 flooding, which were not funded based on limited funding. The US Army Corps and State Reclamation Board should be involved, particularly given their interest in the San Joaquin Valley and flood management

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